



Sussex Street after reconstruction, 1938 - 86.22

#### c.44.6 : Sussex Street

1897 11 20

Sussex Street improvements, p2

**1900**

1904 03 26

Messrs J. Carter Jonas sold by auction an important estate in King Street, Cambridge comprising the fully-licensed public house, the Millers Arms and adjoining dwelling house and outbuildings. The pub contains beer cellars and washhouse in the basement, a large room fitted with a kitchen range, bar parlour etc now in the occupation of Messrs Bailey & Tebbutt. The business premises at the rear include a paint shop, workshop and stables whilst the house has four bedrooms. When Sussex Street is widened King Street must become an important business thoroughfare. It was acquired by Mr Nockolds at £3,700

1904 04 21

Cambridge Paving Committee received a memorial from a number of residents in the Hobson Street area calling attention to the present state of the carriage-way. They directed the Surveyor to report the cost of paving the street with wood blocks, together with the portion of St Andrew's Street from the tramway terminus. But Hobson Street was used by very few people; traffic was not half what it used to be and as the trams were likely to be electrified it would be better to wait. However a great amount of traffic came from Newmarket Road to the centre of town down King Street; very often there was a great block of traffic in Sussex Street because it was dangerous to go down Hobson Street where the pebbles were very uneven. Traffic went on dropping, and business went on dropping, simply because the street was so badly paved

1905 01 14

Sussex St fire, p3

1906 02 02

A London carpenter was charged with driving a motor car at greater speed than was reasonable and proper .PC Aworth said he saw a car turn into Hobson Street, Cambridge and put on speed. "The car went 30 mph, if fact I never saw a motor car go faster", he said. In turning the corner at Sussex Street the wheels went for some distance along the pavement. Harry Stearn, a photographer, said he was walking in the gutter and had to jump on the path to save himself. The driver was fined 50s. 06 02 02a

## **1910**

1912 05 03

Two Cambridge 13-year-old boys were summonsed after P.C. Moss saw them with pistols in Fen Ditton Lane. The boys, who were in Scouts' uniform, said they'd gone there to try them and did not know they were doing wrong. The guns contained loaded cartridges which they'd bought at a shop in Sussex Street. The magistrates said he would write to the Scoutmaster. The Scouts' movement was a good one and it was bad for the corps that they should do this in uniform. The pistols were forfeited. 12 05 03b

1912 08 09

The County Council had considered various sites for a new County Hall. The purchase price of Hobson Street Methodist Chapel was £3,500 (£324,000 today) which was fair. In the chapel they had a good deal of material and the shell and outside walls would stand and be utilised. But it would not be sufficient. So they needed to purchase a house from Christ's College; they were not desirous of selling and the price of £2,500 was the least they would accept. The erection of county hall would increase the value of the other buildings in Hobson Street and help to bring a much-needed town improvement through the widening of Sussex Street. 12 08 09

1913 11 21

16 Sussex Street to be pulled down; 18 Peas Hill rebuilt – a wretched, verminous house; Fair Street widening, 13 11 21 p7

1919 06 25

Property market \_ Sidney Street estate includes Price of Wales' Hotel, Dorothy Café, True Blue and Nag's Head, shops in Sussex Street and premises Hobson Street; bought by G.P. Hawkins; also houses, Duxford airfield machinery and plant – 19 06 25b

## **1920**

1920 01 22

Sussex Street widening discussed – no widening except at corner Sidney Street as island site had been acquired by syndicate for erecting cinema

1920 01 28

Should Sussex Street be widened; need to improve centre town, blunders of the past, council debate – 20 01 28a

1920 03 30

Picture Playhouse plans, Sussex Street approved

1920 04 03

Building of new cinemas in Sussex Street and Guildhall Street vetoed by council

1920 04 06

Sussex Street should be widened from end to end, council says; was bit of old Cambridge

1920 04 07

Sussex Street to be widened, proposed cinema vetoed as would delay work on houses; suggestion that council buy plot and erect municipal cinema to avoid paying heavy compensation – 20 04 07a, b

1920 05 11

Sussex Street widening too expensive

1920 05 14

Sussex Street widening, long secret debate

Sussex Street cinema lively discussion, not approve plans

1920 05 19

Sussex Street widening – to purchase land south side to widen to width of 28 feet or purchase entire site; reject cinema plans – 20 05 19a

1920 06 17

Picture Playhouse Company appeal for erection of a kinema on the Sussex Street site

1920 07 02

Playhouse appeal against decision to block Sussex Street cinema lost

1921 01 05

Proposed Sussex Street cinema plans discussed – 21 01 05

1921 01 19

Sussex Street cinema – undesirable on the site proposed – 21 01 19a, b

1927 03 16

The owners of the Playhouse, Mill Road, Cambridge, have just completed negotiations for the sale of that cinema to a syndicate who are said to be the owners of the Central Cinema and the Tivoli. We understand that the transfer will take place in September. The Picture Playhouses Ltd, who owned the Playhouse, also have property in Sussex Street and they are also disposing of this.

1927 03 23

Sussex Street site sale, p5

**1930**

1930 03 19

Demolition work has just begun on the Sidney Street corner of Sussex Street as a first step towards the most important reconstruction scheme for the improvement of Cambridge in many years. Sidney Sussex College will develop the whole site on modern lines; within the next year an imposing block of buildings, providing shops and offices will rise. It will be connected to Hobson Street by an

artistically-designed crescent and colonnade of 12 shops which will allow vehicles to pass freely in the middle of Sussex Street. 30 03 19b

1930 03 20

Sussex Street sketches, p6

1930 03 22

There never was a time surely when there were so many works of destruction going on as at present. Little bits of old Cambridge are going one by one and elaborate new buildings are rising up in their place. Following demolition in Petty Cury and Sidney Street now we see old houses and shops in Sussex Street being knocked down. No wonder that those who come back to the town after a few years' absence express amazement at the changes they see. When we think of the bridges built at Newnham and Chesterton, of the streets that have been widened, the new recreation ground opened and the great business changes effected in the heart of the town we may well gasp. 30 03 22 a & b

1931 04 03

G.P. Hawkins opened the first tea shop in Cambridge at the corner of Sussex Street in 1900. It could hold 10 people with a waitress & two assistants. As adjoining space became available the premises were enlarged. Today the Dorothy Café can accommodate 2,000 and there is no brand of catering which cannot be undertaken. In 1904 he erected a bakery with two ovens at the side of Midsummer Common; today with seven ovens working six days a week he produces about 200,000 loaves. It also manufactures a ton of ice a day plus sufficient ice cream to supply the entire needs of Cambridge. 31 04 03a

1933 07 05

Sir, If I were 'Traffic Dictator' for Cambridge motor cycles would not be allowed in Sussex Street or Christ's Lane, there would be no parking of cars for more than fifteen minutes or in Jesus Lane: why spend £2,000 widening it, then block the space gained by motor cars. Bus users would be made to queue up near Lloyds Bank: often it is virtually impossible to get through the crowds of waiting passengers. – 'Interested'. 33 07 05 p8

1936 03 28

Under new restrictions Cambridge motorists may not travel from Market Hill towards Trinity Street or into Bene't Street from King's Parade. You may not drive into Sussex Street from Hobson Street or into Corn Exchange Street from Downing Street, nor turn at Burton's Corner, Petty Cury to go to the Victoria Cinema or from Wheeler Street into Peas Hill to get to the Arts Theatre. But cyclists may walk with their bicycles either way as they do at present in Petty Cury and Market Street. Restaurants will have to speed up their service if they wish to cater for those who leave their cars outside, for only a quarter of an hour is permitted. Travellers who do not want to get indigestion had better make use of a parking space! 36 03 28b

1936 04 17

Sussex Street, p1

1937 08 14

Mr W. Ridgeon established his shop in old Sussex Street in 1902 and moved to their new premises in 1932 since when the business has steadily grown. Now with their own nursery at Castle Street and lawn mower works at Westfield Lane they pride themselves on giving the best and most complete garden service in Cambridge. The business also includes a modern floral department and a section devoted to all dog and pet foods and requisites. 37 08 14

1938 07 22

Sussex Street is the most striking of the many improvements made in Cambridge during the past few years. Those who recall the dark, narrow lane of bygone days, with its overhanging roofs on either side, and its small, ill-lit shops, will hardly recognise the imposing street that has emerged from the

builders' hands with its line of modern shops and shop-fronts. It is now Cambridge's latest shopping centre. 38 07 22

1938 07 23

H.W. Peak new premises, Sussex Street – advert – 38 07 23f

1938 10 29

The West End comes to Cambridge. Paris House, the beautiful new fashion rendezvous in Sussex Street caters specifically for the High Class trade. The Inner Court, richly executed in Indian Padouk and Australian Walnut, displays the most lovely garments, becoming the rendezvous for ladies of taste. To Car Users – our Commissionaire will attend to your car with pleasure while you are in our salon – Advert 38 10 29b

**1940**

1940 02 23

Paris House, Sussex Street, fashions – advert – 40 02 23a

**1950**

1952 09 01

With a fanfare from six scarlet-suited trumpeters Cambridge's third Trades Fair on Midsummer Common was opened. Immediately afterwards the Mayor went to the Interflora stand and sent a basket of roses by air to the Mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Three local firms, Messrs Biggs of Peas Hill, Messrs J. Rogers of Newnham and Messrs Ridgeon's of Sussex Street, pooled their dollar allocations to provide the roses for America. In the first six hours 12,642 people paid for admission

1953 07 04

The pressure of 200 people waiting outside Rose's Fashion Centre in Sussex Street, Cambridge broke one of the shop windows. The sale was a real family affair, the husbands standing for the wives from the early hours until the woman of the family herself arrived to try and grab some of the bargains. There were four gabardine suits reduced from seven guineas (£7.35) to 15s (75p) and a grey Melange coat at £1 (original price £8.8s.) Many bargain hunters have been reaping the reward of the disastrous summer weather. At Tobin's of Mill Road they were clearing summer frocks for 10s (50p) which originally cost up to five times as much.

1959 02 26

Gordon Thoday has specialised in fabrics for over a quarter of a century. At the new contemporary shop in St Andrew's Street modern display counters give the advantage of self-selection, or if you prefer our staff will be happy to serve you from the immense and exciting variety of the newest British and Continental fabrics. Our Sussex Street shop continues as usual – Advertisement. 59 02 26

**1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date**

**1960**

1963 05 21

The firm of E.J. Pigott (Tools) was established in Sidney Street 100 years ago and moved to Sussex Street before the war. It has been handed down from father to son with always some member of the family behind the counter. Its handicraft shop in Hills Road was the first of its kind in East Anglia and they've recently opened an ironmongery department. It has ceased to sell hip and slipper baths but stocks 140 different types of pocket knife 63 05 21a & b

**1970**

1977 02 02

The Dorothy Continental delicatessen on the corner of Sussex Street, Cambridge, ceased trading at the weekend. It was the last remaining part of the former Dorothy restaurant and ballroom, sold by G.P. Hawkins in 1972 for £850,000. The Dorothy contained a supermarket, restaurant, large ballroom and other rooms used by many organisations for official functions. It was taken over by the Co-op in 1952. The above-ground part of the Dorothy was acquired by Waring and Gillow, the London-based furniture chain, the remainder now forms the Henekey Tavern. When the Dorothy closed, Hawkins moved its outside catering section to the Alma Brewery site in Russell Street

1977 12 02

Sidney Street, Cambridge can be a battleground at this time of year. The narrow pavements and heavy traffic are a strain for anyone trying to shop. A right turn down Sussex Street may prove more fruitful. It has a solid old-fashioned atmosphere and a tightly-packed variety of specialist shops. The decorations and window displays are refreshingly quiet. The shopper can get a bite in the newly-opened Took's snack-bar, or relax for a shampoo at Diane's Hair International. Pigotts has a large stock of ironmongery and clothing shops include Paris House and the Rose Cavern Boutique, Easifit shoes and Charles' leather shop.

**1980**

1980 12 16

Sussex Street shops – 80 12 16

1984 10 08

Pigott's, the Cambridge hardware chain has closed its central branch in Sussex Street. They have been in the street since the 1930s and always did a good trade but had increasingly severe problems with parking and with wholesalers getting to the shop. Then a rent review was the final thing, the manager said. 84 10 08 p7

1984 11 02

Own Roe, the St Andrew's Street antiques dealer, is the latest in a line of specialist private shops owners to be driven out of the centre of Cambridge by massive rent rises. His great-grandfather started in business at the corner of Christ's Lane in 1822 but that shop was pulled down to make way for Bradwell's Court in the 1960s. Recently E.J. Pigott (tools) left Sussex Street after nearly 50 years and now the Granta Wool Shop is concerned about a rent review. Model Mania in King Street has also moved. 84 11 02 p8

1984 12 05

KP Professional Sales started in 1968 when its position on King's Parade was ideal for building up business with university departments. But it outgrew its space in the KP Camera Shop, moving to Sussex Street and then Quayside before opening new premises in Clifton Road. It supplies Government departments, the armed forces and a host of professional photographers who need a vital piece of equipment at the last minute. There is a lot of new electronic equipment but as far as taking pictures is concerned Ian Bedson, the managing director, doesn't envisage any major innovation. 84 12 05 & a

1985 10 15

Pigott's, the family ironmongers which has traded in Cambridge for more than a century, is up for sale. It was in 1863 that John Pigott, son of a Landbeach farmer, opened an ironmongers shop in Sidney Street and a chain of shops were set up in Market Hill, Mill Road, Norfolk Street, Bridge Street and Hills Road. The Sussex Street branch, an established feature of the street since the late 1930s, shut down last September. The business, now in Victoria Road, includes two shops, a warehouse, stores and office. 85 10 15a

1988 10 19

Jane Webb is a name well-known in Newmarket for large, elegantly-stocked dress shops. She started as a child, helping her parents on a menswear stall and, aged 13, ran a tiny dress shop in Sun Street with her mother. Ten years ago she moved into the derelict gas showrooms and stocked upmarket clothes. Now she also has a large shop in Sussex Street Cambridge and employs a staff of 40. This autumn she has flown to fashion fairs around Europe and makes weekly buying trips to London 88 10 19

